

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 /072 W
-----075235 020257Z /65

R 011102Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0430
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO CNO WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, SHUM
SUBJECT: NAVY CHIEFS OF CHAPLAINS AD HOC GROUP
MEETING

REF: USNATO 3103 (DTG 241213Z MAR 78)(NOTAL)

.
1. THE AD HOC GROUP OF NAVY CHIEFS OF CHAPLAINS MET
AT SHAPE AS SCHEDULED MARCH 29-31. AS NOTED IN REFTEL,
PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO FOLLOW-UP ON THE OCTOBER
1977 MEETING OF NATO NAVY CHIEFS OF CHAPLAINS IN LONDON,
WITH DELIBERATIONS ON THE FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING
SUPPORT IN SOME FORM FOR THE SHARED SPIRITUAL/HUMAN
VALUES IN THE ALLIANCE. ARMY AND AIR FORCE CHAPLAIN
REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE US AND UK, TOGETHER WITH A
USMISSION OFFICER, ATTENDED THE MEETING AS OBSERVERS.

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2. THE AD HOC GROUP, COMPOSED OF NAVY CHIEFS OF
CHAPLAINS FROM THE US, UK, FRANCE, GERMANY, AND
DENMARK REACHED THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS:

. - THERE IS A CRITICAL NEED TO SUPPORT IN SOME FORM
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ALLIANCE SECURITY AND
SPIRITUAL/HUMAN VALUES HELD IN COMMON BY ALLIANCE

MEMBERS.

. - THE APPROACH TO ESTABLISHING THIS RELATIONSHIP SHOULD BE AN EXPLORATORY, STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS RATHER THAN DIRECT PROCEDURE TO A MECHANISM SUCH AS A NATO STANDING COMMITTEE.

. - THE RELATIONSHIP SHOULD FIRST BE ESTABLISHED IN THE FORM OF A COMMITTEE OUTSIDE THE NATO ORGANIZATION, COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE SERVICE CHIEFS OF CHAPLAINS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES. THESE REPRESENTATIVES WOULD DRAW ON RESOURCE PERSONS IN THEIR COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP ISSUES AND AN AGENDA TO BE DISCUSSED AT AN ANNUAL OR SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE WITH NATO OFFICIALS IN BRUSSELS.

. - THE CHAIRMAN, CHAPLAIN (RADM) JOHN J. O'CONNOR, US NAVY CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS, WILL REPORT THE FINDINGS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO ALL THE NAVY CHIEFS OF CHAPLAINS, AND WILL CONFER WITH THEIR ARMY AND AIR FORCE COUNTERPARTS TO ENLIST THEIR SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION. THE CHAIRMAN WILL FURTHER ADVISE APPROPRIATE NATO OFFICIALS ON THE RESULTS OF THE ABOVE CONSULTATIONS, AND WILL EXPLORE WITH THESE OFFICIALS APPROPRIATE TERMS OF ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROPOSED COMMITTEE WITH NATO HEADQUARTERS. BENNETT
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USNATO03340
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780142-0979
Format: TEL
From: USNATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197804102/aaaadiog.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0f5735a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USNATO 3103
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2821703
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAVY CHIEFS OF CHAPLAINS AD HOC GROUP MEETING
TAGS: SHUM, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0f5735a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014